

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- (B)*
- Sub C*
1. (Amended) A process of producing a sterile foam for medical or veterinary use, said process comprising the following steps:
 - a) foaming a physiologically acceptable formulation for application to a body as a foam, said formulation comprising a foamable gelling agent;
 - b) treating said foamed formulation with a precipitant wherein the precipitant is calcium citrate or a calcium ion releasing water soluble glass, and said precipitant is combined with said gelling agent *before or during* the foaming of the gelling agent and stabilises the gelling agent;
 - c) allowing the foam thus obtained to cure;
 - d) immersing the foam in a bath of said precipitant;
 - e) drying said treated foam; and
 - f) sterilising said dried foam by exposure to gamma-irradiation or ethylene oxide.
 2. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said gelling agent prior to foaming.
 3. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol metacrylate, carageenan gel, gelatin, a gum, or salt of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
 4. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethyl-cellulose, salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

5. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

7. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said formulation further contains a foaming agent.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said foaming agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, or a surfactant.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

11. (Twice Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said formulation further comprises an organic acid in an amount of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g of gelling agent.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

22. (Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said foam is washed in a de-ionised water/glycerine mixture prior to drying.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

23. (Twice Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the foam is oven dried at temperatures below 100°C.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

24. (Twice Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the foam is immersed in a bath of calcium citrate solution as precipitant.

Add the following new claims:

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

25. (New) The process of Claim 1, wherein said treated foam is washed.

*b1
b2
b3
b4
b5
b6
b7*

26. (New) A foam obtained in accordance with the process of Claim 1.